



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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RAT CONTROL EXPERTS DETAILED TO CRITICAL AREAS IN GRAIN BELT

Five experienced rat control experts are being detailed to critical grain producing areas where farm rat control is most urgently needed to aid the President's food-saving program, it was announced today by Dorr D. Green, Chief of the Fish and Wildlife Service's Division of Predator and Rodent Control.

These "reserve troops", from areas where the rat problem is less severe, will conduct rat poisoning demonstrations and help organize community rat control programs as part of a nation-wide program to conserve grain. This campaign to rid farms of rats is being sponsored jointly by the Department of the Interior, through its Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Department of Agriculture.

District rat control experts, Morris Kelley of Denver will move into the Minnesota area, B. F. Lowery also of Denver will assist in Kansas, Milton Webster of Albuquerque will go into the north central states, Noble Buell of San Antonio will help in the south central states and Roy Moore of Atlanta is detailed to aid in the southeastern states.

County Agricultural and Home Demonstration Agents in all sections of the United States are now cooperating with District Rat Control Agents to conduct an intensified warfare on rats to save as much as possible of the 200 million bushels of grain annually destroyed by these rodents.

The value of the campaign-type of operation, according to Mr. Green, is in the complete coverage of an entire community at one time. Ridding a whole community of rats can best be accomplished by the organized efforts of all the citizens working through interested public and private agencies. Because rats are widespread and prolific breeders, a permanent working organization against them should be established in rural districts.

"Rats have been fighting mankind too long to be defeated by an emergency program lasting only a few months," declared Mr. Green. "All the Fish and Wildlife Service hopes to do in the present campaign is to send in 'shock troops' to set the rats back on their heels during the present grain conservation drive. Rats never take vacations nor do they recognize the eight-hour day. If the present winter's campaign should reduce their numbers by 50 percent in a few of the critical food-producing areas, the rapid natural increase of rats would make up for that reduction in a few months unless permanent control on a large scale is made possible."

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